

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**  
**DIV of USSN 09/890,825**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please enter the following cancellations, additions and/or amendments.

Claims 1-17. (Cancelled).

Claim 18. (Original) An electrochemical cell which comprises

- a first plate,
- a second plate placed at a distance from the first plate, and
- at least one membrane-electrode assembly fitted between the first and the second plates, the assembly comprising
  - a first porous electrode,
  - a second porous electrode placed at a distance from the first electrode,
  - a membrane fitted between the first and the second electrode,
  - first feeding units for feeding fuel to the first electrode,
  - second feeding units for feeding an oxidant to the second electrode, and
  - electric switching elements which enable electric switching between the first and the second electrode,

characterized in that the membrane material of the membrane is a non-aromatic polymer film which comprises sulfonic acid groups linked directly to the linear carbon backbone of the polymer chain of the polymer in such a manner that the total

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concentration of sulfonic acid groups in the membrane is 0.4 - 3 meq/g and they are homogeneously distributed in the membrane material so that their concentration in the middle of the membrane is at minimum 0.2 meq/g.